

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claim 1 so that the current status of all claims is as follows:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A method for reading a micro-discrete indicia on a gemstone, comprising:  
locating an apparatus-created unique micro-discrete indicia on said gemstone; and  
reading said apparatus-created unique micro-discrete indicia using near-field optics.
2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is initially located using an eye-loop or a microscope.
3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is located by using predetermined coordinates associated with the indicia on said gemstone.
4. (original) A method according to claim 3 where a document is provided that designates the appropriate coordinates of the micro-discrete indicia of said gemstone.
5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein characteristics of said gemstone used to locate said indicia is selected from one of the following:  
size, type of gemstone, facet, manufacturer, retailer, and owner.
6. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is used for authenticating an occasion of said gemstone.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said authentication identifies at least one of the manufacturer, owner, retailer, quality, and type of gemstone.

8. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said locating of said indicia on said gemstone is provided by scanning said gemstone.